

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 10-13 and 15-20 are pending. Claims 4, 8 and 14 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for withdrawing the various rejections, as presented on pages 2-3 of the Office Action of October 27, 2003.

I. 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5-8 and 10-12 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by at least one of Berbeco (U.S. Patent No. 4,596,668), Shaw (U.S. Patent No. 4,379,822) and Keough (U.S. Patent No. 4,623,594). The Office Action asserts each of these references expressly teaches the features recited by the claims. In light of the amendment above, and the remarks presented herein, reconsideration is expressly requested.

A. "Polyethylene wax"

The Office Action states that Berbeco and Shaw teach to include a polyethylene wax emulsion in the acrylic resin base. With respect to Berbeco, the Office Action cites column 3, lines 58-62. However, while this passage discloses the use of polyethylene glycols and waxes generally, there is no specific teaching to include a polyethylene wax. As is generally known in the art, a wax the term "wax" includes a virtually infinite number of materials, for example, mineral wax, (such as paraffin, microcrystalline, or ozokerite), vegetable wax (such as carnauba, flax or candelialla), animal wax (such as beeswax) or synthetic wax (such as Fischer-Tropsch). Thus, the general disclosure of "wax" cannot include any specific wax, and would definitely not motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to select one specific wax from the endless list of waxes.

Similarly, the Office Action points to column 2, lines 52-62 of Shaw as teaching "that a polyethylene wax emulsion is added to the acrylic resin base." However, the cited passage does not mention waxes at all, and as a result cannot suggest to include a polyethylene wax. While the cited passage does disclose the use of the use of an ethylene monomer in forming the film-forming polymer, such use is not equivalent to the invention as present recited.

Thus, neither Berbeco nor Shaw can expressly or inherently anticipate the pending claims.

B. Keough

Claims 5, 10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Keough. However, these claims have been amended to positively recite a polyethylene wax emulsion and as Keough fails to teach to include a polyethylene wax emulsion (admitted by the Office Action at page 9, lines 10-14), reconsideration of these rejections is respectfully requested.

II. 35 USC § 103

Claims 3, 7, 8, 13, and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over combinations of Keough, Shaw, Berbeco, and Felter et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,895,886). However, because Felter et al. does not teach to include a polyethylene wax, it does not cure the deficiencies of Keough, Shaw, and Berbeco as discussed in Section I, above. Thus, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

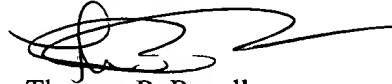
III. New Claims

New claims 15-20 are directed to laminates formed from a layer coated on both sides by the composition of the invention. These claims are supported throughout the specification, for example, at page 3, last paragraph. As none of the cited references teaches or suggest to provide the recited composition on both sides of a laminate, Applicant respectfully submits such claims are allowable over the cited art.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all objections and rejections are overcome. Thus, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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